

VZCZCXRO9165

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DE RUEHOT #0801 1651941  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 131941Z JUN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8030  
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUCNCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0433

UNCLAS OTTAWA 000801

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [SO](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA PEACE AGREEMENT

REF: A. OTTAWA 755

[1](#)B. OTTAWA 737

[1](#)1. (U) As yet another sign of Canada's continued attention to and concern for the people of Somalia (reftels), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade David Emerson on June 11 lauded the new peace accord between the Somali Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, called on all parties for support, and underscored Canada's ongoing assistance program. Full text in para 2.

[1](#)2. (U) Begin text

Canada congratulates the Somali Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia on concluding a peace agreement on June 9, 2008, in Djibouti.

This agreement is an important step in ending the tragic 18-year civil war that has brought much suffering to the people of Somalia. We recognize the efforts of Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General in West Africa, in convening the peace talks, and of the Government of Djibouti in hosting them.

Canada calls on all parties in Somalia to support the peace agreement, end hostilities and work toward reconciliation. Canada is deeply concerned by the current humanitarian crisis, which has been exacerbated by the conflict. There must be unhindered access within the country for humanitarian actors, and greater efforts are required to protect human rights and media freedom.

Canada has contributed more than \$25 million in humanitarian assistance since December 2006. This includes \$16 million to the World Food Programme and an additional \$4.5 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Canadian non-governmental organizations. Canada also provides \$500,000 a year to support local projects in three priority areas: good governance, democratic development and human rights.

End text

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